

3-13-68

There exist at least three different version of this picture taken at the time President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on Nov. 22, 1963. One version appeared in the Saturday Evening Post, Dec. 14, 1963; a second version is that published by Harold Weisberg in Whitewash II, with assurances from AP that it was made from the original untouched 35 mm negative; a third version is that published in Esquire, May, 1967, the National Enquirer, May 7, 1967, and by Parallax Press in a paperback version of The Torch Is Passed in July, 1967. I shall refer to these versions as the Post Altgens, the Whitewash Altgens, and the Parallax Altgens.

Discrepancies in these versions are as follows:

1) The Parallax Altgens shows a flash of light off the windshield of the motorcycle officer riding the left rear trunk of the President's car. This is the inside left rider nearest the limosine. This flash of light appears to be about even with the handlegrip on the right side of the cycle. It is even with and extends above the right small red headlight on the cycle. Just behind this flash of light is a semicircular black spot. Above that is a portion of the grillwork on the Johnson limosine which is behind this rider. At first glance this portion of grillwork appears to be the hand of this rider. My analysis, however, indicates that it is identical to the grillwork in the same place on the President's car, which may be seen in a full uncropped version of the picture.

This flash of light does not appear in the Whitewash Altgens or in the Post Altgens. Instead there appears a round black spot. I cannot determine what such a round black spot could be in this position on a cycle since no such spot or object appears on the other cycles. Below the black circular spot in these two versions is what appears to be a rough imitation of a bumper. This bumper portion of the Johnson limosine is not visible in the flash of light version, or Parallax version.

2) The Parallax version of the picture shows a different arm line on the motorcycle officer riding directly to the right of the President's limosine. This is the right arm. In the Parallax version there is an indentation in the lower arm line just at and below what appears to be a name brand patch on the seat of the trousers of the man in construction helmet by the lamppost in the background of the ~~picture~~ picture. The Post and Whitewash versions do not show this indentation, which appears to be caused by an inward bend of the officer's arm. Instead they show a long outward-sloping unbroken line.

3) The Post version of the picture shows a white object on the hood of the Johnson limosine in front of the windshield and beneath the chin of Mrs. Johnson; and at the left (to the viewer) end of this object is a crossbar, square on the bottom and appearing to be pointed at the top where it joins the horizontal bar. This crossbar does not appear in either the Parallax or the Whitewash version of the picture.

Other areas of the picture which are the same in all versions of the photograph which I have seen deserve study.

4) The three versions are unanimous in recording movement or activity on the part of three men in the doorway of the Texas building. The man at the right side of the doorway, who strongly resembles Lee Oswald, appears to have a white object in the air in front of him. It cuts off his chin and shoulder (left to him) in a most unnatural manner. In addition his left arm, in enlargements of this portion of the picture, appears to be just coming to rest after motion, with the shadow cast down on the shoulder of the Negro man standing below him in the niche. This white object bears a strong resemblance to the white object on the hood of the Johnson limosine.

§ To the left of "Oswald" stands a man, who appears to be a rather tall youth with dark hair, who has his hands on top of his head in a most unnatural manner, as if he too may have just thrown something and brought his hands to rest on top of his head in an effort to conceal the throw.

Just below this "youth" with hands on top of head appears to be a shorter, stouter man in a white jacket or shirt. His head appears to partially obscure the turned face of the youth above, and his face in turn appears to be obscured by a white object in the air in front of it. This is difficult to make out.

I believe these objects may be streamers of some sort, and that the white object on the hood of the Johnson car is the same thing.
§

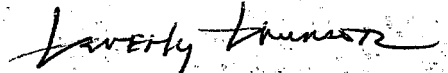
5) The next area of interest is the left hand area of the motorcycle officer riding the immediate left of the President's limosine, the officer who in the Parallax version has a flash of light on the right hand side. Other photographs of this officer (Bond #1 which shows him coming up behind his cycle after the shooting and Willis #5 which shows him seconds before or even after the first shot has sounded) make it appear that this officer wore dark gloves, though it is impossible to say for sure. If he did wear dark gloves, then it is most assuredly grillwork to the right of the cycle. Willis #5 however seems to indicate that the left handlegrip of this officer's cycle is empty. Since the Altgens picture was taken only seconds later, it may be that deep shadows were placed on the Altgens in the left handlegrip vicinity in order to create the impression that a hand was there.

6) The motorcycle officer riding to the immediate right of the President's limosine should be placed if possible in relation to the limosine. Color #193 Zapruder shows that this inside rider is inside the same traffic lane as is the President. He has steadily moved up on the right tail of the limosine until by Willis #5 he is in advance of all the other riders and far in advance of his partner on the outside right nearest the curb. By Altgens which corresponds to Zapruder #255 he would if he had kept on with his steady advance be in about the position he appears to be, that is just a few feet to the right of the limosine and somewhere between Kennedy and Connally. If he is in the position he appears in Altgens to be then he should almost certainly appear in Z255, but he does not.

3.

All the streets in that Plaza were 40 feet wide. This one had three lanes. The Kennedy car was right on the white line at the left of the middle lane. I do not know how wide the limosine was but it would have been six or seven feet. Thus this rider is probably not more than about three feet from Kennedy at this point. Later he falls back, by Nix, Moorman, Muchmore.

7) There were four officers riding to the rear of the car. The rider on the outside right rear of the car does not appear in the Altgens photograph. However, I think I detect his helmet right at the center of the top of the front windshield between the two sunvisors. If this is in fact his helmet, then his position continues to be quite a distance behind that of the inside right rider as it is in Willis #5, since this helmet is quite small in comparison with those of the other officers. This would be Jim Chaney. It is ~~hard~~ therefore rather difficult to see how he could have observed a bullet strike the President in the face.



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